



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting Minute

Date: Monday, March 13, 2023

Time: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Committee Co-chair Chris Benzing, Amy Keller, Steve McHenry, Bill Valentine, Greg Padghm, Judith Walker, Don Mulrine, Janice Palmer, Susanne Richards, Jacinta Bottoms-Spencer, Josh Bollinger, John Hartline, Charlotte Davis, Amanda Clevenger, Megan D'Arcy.

Legislative Committee Co-chair Chris Benzing welcomed everyone and convened the meeting at 2:02pm. Participants made introductions by Zoom chat.

Mr. Don Mulrine made a motion to approve the February 27, 2023 meeting minutes, Mr. John Hartline seconded it. The February 27, 2023 were unanimously approved. The Committee Co-Chair provided the session updates related to HB200/SB181; HB695; and HB596/SB511. Mr. Steve McHenry provided the budget report stating that the Appropriations Committee met on Friday evening and made decisions on the spending plan and that the Senate is accelerating their consideration of the budget this week. Mr. McHenry further stated that the Board of Revenue Estimates wrote down the revenue estimates for FY23/FY24 by \$478 million and provided information on the Governor's budget plan and the rainy-day funds. Mr. McHenry stated that MARBIDCO and RMC were fully funded and there is \$800,000 budgeted for the Fair Board and \$200,000 for the Spay and Neuter fund.

Mr. Scott Warner provided an update on the HB695 hearing that was held on February 24, 2023 and reviewed the bill's provisions with the participants. RMC staff provided an update on HB596 stating that the bill has been amended by the House to removal of the Rural Nonemergency Medical Transportation Pilot Program and requiring the Governor to provide funding for the pilot program. The Hearing in the Senate will take place on February 28, 2023.

The Committee discussed the bills that had to be revisited from the February 27, 2023 meeting and it was decided to monitor SB562; SB931/HB1188; HB1139; HB1213; HB548/SB550.

Ms. Charlotte Davis provided an update on the upcoming Legislative Event – Maryland Day that will be held on Friday, March 24, 2024 from 11:30am to 12:30pm. Ms. Davis thanked the event sponsors which included MARBIDCO, SMADC, MDA – Maryland's Best, Horizon Farm Credit, Rural Broadband Cooperative, and the Maryland Heritage Areas.

Ms. Davis shared that the next RMC Executive Board will take place on March 31, 2023 at the Banneker-Douglas House in Annapolis.

Mr. Don Mulrine made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. John Hartline seconded it. The motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimously accepted. The meeting adjourned at 2:26pm.